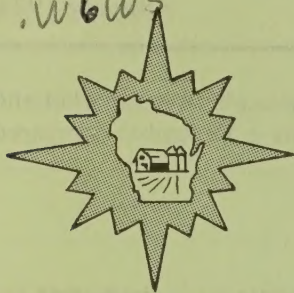


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February 1973

Cream of the News

Milk production on Wisconsin farms during January was 1 percent above a year earlier after averaging 4 percent higher in 1972.

The index of prices received for Wisconsin farm products averaged a record 416 percent of the 1910-14 base in mid-January as livestock and crop prices continued very strong.

Production of all cheese in the Nation during 1972 was 10 percent above the previous record output in 1971 but butter output was down 3 percent.

Wholesale prices of butter declined from December to January while cheddar cheese prices remained stable and Swiss cheese increased.

Red meat production in Wisconsin for December was 13½ percent under a year earlier as both beef and pork output was lower.

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers in January are expected to average \$6.01 a hundredweight, an increase of 1 cent from December in contrast to the usual seasonal decline.

The annual inventory of livestock and poultry on Wisconsin farms showed an increase in all cattle but a decline in hogs, sheep and lambs, and poultry.

Wisconsin farmers reported paying an average of \$24.80 in January for a feeder pig weighing 41 pounds compared with a price of \$18.50 in January 1972 and \$9.35 in January two years ago.

The annual average number of milk cows on Wisconsin farms increased in 1972 for the second consecutive year after several years of declining.

Cold storage stocks of cheese and butter in the Nation at the end of January were higher than a year earlier but stocks of meat were lower.

Prices of barrows and gilts achieved another high at the St. Paul market in January. Fed steers and slaughter cows at St. Paul also increased in price from December to January.

INCREASE IN MILK PRODUCTION SLOWS

Production of milk on Wisconsin farms during January totaled 1,560 million pounds, an increase of 1 percent from a year earlier. During 1972, milk production in Wisconsin increased 4 percent from 1971. The 19,638 million pounds of milk produced in Wisconsin during 1972 exceeded the previous record output of 19,358 million pounds in 1964. Wisconsin provided over 16 percent of the Nation's milk supply in 1972. January's milk output was up 5 percent seasonally from December compared with a 7 percent gain for those months a year earlier.

The Nation's milk production of 9,630 million pounds in January was down 1 percent from the previous year. Production increased 2 percent from December to January compared with a rise of 3 percent for that period a year ago. Output per cow, at 830 pounds in January, was up 1 percent from January 1972.

Total milk production in the Nation during 1972 was 120.3 billion pounds, up 1½ percent from the 1971 output. The revised estimates for 1971 and 1972 are based on an annual review of more complete production and utilization data. Milk production in the Nation for 1972 was above the previous year during each of the first 10 months of 1972, then dipped slightly below in the last two months of the year.

Milk Production

Selected States	January 1972	January 1973	Change from last year	Revised Jan.-Dec. 1972
	Million pounds		Percent	Million pounds
Wisconsin	1,548	1,560	+ 1	19,638
Minnesota	852	842	- 1	9,580
Iowa	371	356	- 4	4,506
New York	856	814	- 5	10,190
Pennsylvania	593	557	- 6	7,031
California	791	817	+ 3	10,430
Other states	4,690	4,684	n. c.	58,903
United States	9,701	9,630	- 1	120,278

MILK PRICE EXPECTED TO REMAIN ABOVE \$6.00 A HUNDREDWEIGHT

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all milk sold in January are expected to average \$6.01 a hundredweight. This

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would be an increase of 1 cent from December in contrast to the usual seasonal decline. A year ago in January the all milk price averaged \$5.48 a hundredweight.

The December price received by Wisconsin farmers for all milk averaged \$6.00 a hundredweight for the first time. Milk prices in December increased 7 cents a hundredweight from November compared with a gain of 3 cents for those months in 1971. Milkfat content for December averaged 3.83 percent, up slightly from the 3.80 percent a year earlier.

Producers for the Grade A market received an average of \$6.14 a hundredweight in December, an increase of 10 cents from November and 46 cents more than December 1972. Manufacturing grade milk, at \$5.80 a hundredweight in December, was 3 cents higher than the previous month and

52 cents above a year earlier. The spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 34 cents in December compared with 40 cents a year ago.

BUTTER PRODUCTION TO CONTINUE LOWER

Weekly estimates of butter production in the Nation for January indicate a continuation of the decline in butter output. Churnings in January could be 7 percent under a year ago. The Nation's butter production in December was down 10 percent from the previous year. Output of butter during 1972 declined 3 percent from 1971. Most of this decline came in the last five months of 1972. Wisconsin's butter production in January fluctuated weekly but may be lower than in January 1972.

Weekly estimates indicate that American cheese production in the Nation for January will show little change from a year earlier. December's output of American cheese was up only 1 percent from the previous year but for 1972 the Nation's production of American cheese increased 11 percent. Wisconsin's production of American cheese in January may be about the same as a year ago. The State's output of American cheese in 1972 was 12 percent above 1971.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1972	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1972	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
Dec.	80,951	- 10	- 6	116,013	+ 1	+ 3
Jan.-Dec. ..	1,109,553	- 3	n. c.	1,672,796	+ 11	+ 12
Weeks ending						
Jan. 4 ..	21,600	- 11	- 19	29,700	+ 5	+ 5
Jan. 11 ..	20,900	- 5	- 4	27,100	+ 1	+ 2
Jan. 18 ..	20,500	- 7	+ 14	26,550	- 4	- 4
Jan. 25 ..	21,950	- 4	+ 5	27,400	- 3	- 4
Feb. 1 ..	22,300	- 6	- 4	29,400	+ 1	+ 2
Total	107,250	- 7	xxx	140,150	n. c.	xxx

BUTTER STOCKS UP A FOURTH

Stocks of butter in the Nation at the end of January were a fourth higher than a year ago. There were 102 million pounds of butter in cold storage on January 31 compared with 82

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	January 31, 1971	January 31, 1972	January 31, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
UNITED STATES				
Butter	119,258	81,825	102,113	+ 25
Cheese, American	255,141	237,083	257,268	+ 9
Cheese, Swiss	12,542	6,636	7,879	+ 19
Cheese, all other	53,219	48,086	51,837	+ 8
Cheese, total	320,902	291,805	316,984	+ 9
WISCONSIN				
Butter	2,212	3,290	3,631	+ 10
Cheese, American	151,145	134,397	165,647	+ 23
GOVERNMENT STOCKS*				
Butter	94,727	58,106	78,626	+ 35
Cheese, American	839	3,415	113	- 97

*Included in above totals.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	November 1972		December price per cwt.			January 1973 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1971	1972	72/71 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.85	5.93	5.52	6.00	+ 9	6.01
Minnesota	3.75	5.53	5.15	5.60	+ 9	5.59
Iowa	3.82	5.77	5.41	5.88	+ 9	5.85
New York	3.70	7.05	6.46	6.75	+ 4	6.75
California	3.70	5.80	5.88	6.00	+ 2	6.00
United States	3.82	6.55	6.17	6.55	+ 6	6.52
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.85	6.04	5.68	6.14	+ 8	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.86	5.77	5.28	5.80	+ 10	xxx
Creameries	3.86	5.60	5.18	5.63	+ 9	xxx
Cheese factories ..	3.86	5.79	5.29	5.82	+ 10	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.88	5.66	5.24	5.69	+ 9	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	Dec. 1971	Nov. 1972	Dec. 1972 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses	5.09	5.39	5.48	+ 8
Market milk	5.27	5.49	5.61	+ 7
Manufacturing milk	4.85	5.23	5.30	+ 9
Creameries	4.77	5.08	5.16	+ 8
American cheese plants	4.87	5.25	5.33	+ 9
Varied products plants	4.81	5.11	5.19	+ 8
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone ...	5.58	5.87	5.95	+ 7

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

— PUBLISHED MONTHLY —

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Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products United States

Commodity	Dec. 31, 1970	Dec. 31, 1971	Dec. 31, 1972	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk	4,706	4,025	3,351	- 17
Dried skim milk	97,907	78,110	38,748	- 50
Dried buttermilk	9,210	2,738	2,701	- 1
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/...	115,733	88,576	74,698	- 16

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

million pounds on that date in 1972. The Government owned more than 78 million pounds of butter in cold storage on January 31, an increase of 35 percent from the previous year.

Stocks of cheese in the Nation's cold storage facilities at the end of January totaled 317 million pounds, up 9 percent from a year earlier. American cheese supplies, which accounted for 81 percent of the total cheese stocks, were also 9 percent greater than on January 31, 1972. Stocks of Swiss cheese in cold storage at the end of January were up 19 percent from a year ago while all other cheese stocks increased 8 percent. The Government held only 113,000 pounds of American cheese in cold storage on January 31 compared with nearly 3½ million pounds on that date last year.

NATION'S 1972 CHEESE PRODUCTION UP 10 PERCENT FROM 1971

Production of all cheese in the Nation during 1972 was 10 percent above the previous record output in 1971. American cheese production for 1972 increased 11 percent from a year earlier. Production gains for other varieties were Swiss 16 percent, Brick and Muenster 10 percent, Italian 9 percent, and all other cheese 4 percent. Cheese production in the Nation during December was up 4 percent from December 1971. Both American and Italian cheese production for December were 1 percent above the previous year. Output of Swiss cheese in December was 30 percent higher than a year earlier. Brick and Muenster production in December was up 5 percent from December 1971 while output of all other cheese increased 8 percent.

Wisconsin produced 12 percent more American cheese in 1972 than a year earlier. The State's output of American cheese during 1972 exceeded 751 million pounds and accounted for 45 percent of the Nation's total. Production of American cheese in Wisconsin during December was 3 percent above the previous year. Minnesota manufactured 16 percent more American cheese in December and during 1972 than a year earlier. Although Missouri's output of American cheese in December was down 16 percent from December a year ago, production during 1972 was up 2 percent. American cheese production in all other states during December was 4 percent below a year earlier but output for 1972 increased 9 percent.

The Nation's butter production in December was down 10 percent from a year earlier. Preliminary estimates of butter production in the Nation for 1972 show a decline of 3 percent from 1971. Churnings of butter in Wisconsin during December were 6 percent lower than in December 1971. Wisconsin produced 202 million pounds of butter in 1972, about the same as in 1971. Butter production in Minnesota for December was 22 percent less than the previous year and

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	Dec. 1971	Dec. 1972	Jan.-Dec. 1972	Change from last year	
				Dec.	Jan.-Dec.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin	15,244	14,260	202,060	- 6	n. c.
Minnesota	22,294	17,300	259,698	- 22	- 9
Iowa	6,734	5,900	87,040	- 12	- 5
Other states	45,609	43,491	560,755	- 5	n. c.
United States	89,881	80,951	1,109,553	- 10	- 3
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin	49,630	51,300	751,400	+ 3	+ 12
Minnesota	14,652	16,963	190,217	+ 16	+ 16
Missouri	5,961	5,000	91,930	- 16	+ 2
Other states	44,377	42,750	639,249	- 4	+ 9
United States	114,620	116,013	1,672,796	+ 1	+ 11
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss	13,244	17,249	178,346	+ 30	+ 16
Brick and Muenster . .	5,070	5,303	67,962	+ 5	+ 10
Limburger	242	230	2,538	- 5	- 2
Italian	43,022	43,467	491,910	+ 1	+ 9
All other	20,794	22,481	198,867	+ 8	+ 4
Total	82,372	88,730	939,623	+ 8	+ 9
ALL CHEESE					
United States	196,992	204,743	2,612,419	+ 4	+ 10
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/	54,865	56,812	783,296	+ 4	+ 6
Creamed 2/	74,204	74,583	1,038,262	+ 1	+ 3
	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin	1,472	1,400	19,355	- 5	- 3
Illinois	2,710	3,250	43,305	+ 20	+ 4
Iowa	577	500	7,740	- 13	+ 5
Michigan	2,536	2,680	38,205	+ 6	+ 6
Minnesota	2,157	2,050	30,195	- 5	+ 7
Other states	42,546	42,002	647,527	- 1	+ 2
United States	51,998	51,882	786,327	n. c.	+ 2

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

output for 1972 was down 9 percent. Iowa manufactured 12 percent less butter in December than a year ago and production during 1972 declined 5 percent. While butter production in all other states during December was down 5 percent from a year earlier, output for 1972 showed little change.

The Nation's production of cottage cheese curd in December was up 4 percent from the previous year and output of creamed cottage cheese increased 1 percent. During 1972, cottage cheese curd production in the Nation was 6 percent more than in 1971 while creamed cottage cheese output gained 3 percent. The Nation's ice cream production in December was about the same as a year ago but output during 1972 rose 2 percent from 1971.

MILK COW NUMBERS HIGHER IN 1972

The annual average number of milk cows on Wisconsin farms for 1972 was 1,832,000, an increase of ½ percent from 1971. This was the second straight year that the annual average number of milk cows on Wisconsin farms showed an increase after several years of declining. Milk cow numbers remained fairly constant in the first half of the 1960's but declined 15 percent in the last five years of that decade. However, milk production per cow rose 9 percent during that period to help offset the loss of cows. Milk cow numbers in Wisconsin began an upward climb in the second half of 1970. During 1972, milk cow numbers leveled off before declining slightly at the end of the year.

Number of Milk Cows in Herds on Farms, Wisconsin, 1961-72 1/

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
1,000 head													
1961.....	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150
1962.....	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150
1963.....	2,150	2,150	2,148	2,147	2,146	2,145	2,144	2,143	2,143	2,142	2,141	2,140	2,145
1964.....	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,139	2,138	2,138	2,138	2,137	2,135	2,139
1965.....	2,128	2,120	2,110	2,100	2,090	2,080	2,070	2,060	2,050	2,040	2,030	2,020	2,075
1966.....	2,011	2,003	1,995	1,988	1,981	1,975	1,970	1,965	1,960	1,956	1,952	1,949	1,975
1967.....	1,946	1,943	1,940	1,937	1,934	1,931	1,928	1,925	1,922	1,919	1,916	1,913	1,930
1968.....	1,909	1,905	1,900	1,895	1,890	1,885	1,880	1,875	1,869	1,863	1,858	1,853	1,882
1969.....	1,849	1,846	1,843	1,839	1,836	1,833	1,830	1,827	1,824	1,821	1,818	1,816	1,832
1970.....	1,815	1,815	1,814	1,814	1,813	1,813	1,812	1,812	1,813	1,813	1,814	1,814	1,814
1971.....	1,815	1,816	1,817	1,818	1,819	1,821	1,822	1,824	1,826	1,828	1,830	1,832	1,822
1972.....	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,831	1,832

1/Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

Milk Production per Cow, Wisconsin, 1961-72 1/

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
Pounds													
1961.....	671	639	760	760	825	855	725	630	575	615	610	675	8,340
1962.....	720	680	785	795	875	870	740	650	605	645	614	671	8,650
1963.....	700	665	775	795	880	875	735	660	610	650	630	695	8,670
1964.....	750	745	840	840	920	885	740	665	620	660	650	735	9,050
1965.....	785	740	855	860	920	890	775	685	617	630	625	685	9,080
1966.....	730	690	810	835	900	920	795	725	660	670	660	740	9,140
1967.....	780	735	820	855	920	925	835	755	690	705	680	740	9,440
1968.....	785	766	860	880	960	940	846	775	710	715	695	740	9,676
1969.....	780	745	860	875	975	992	885	810	735	720	700	775	9,853
1970.....	810	765	890	915	1,000	1,000	905	835	750	766	735	795	10,163
1971.....	840	795	910	940	1,025	1,005	905	845	770	785	735	790	10,345
1972.....	845	840	960	965	1,035	1,050	950	870	815	820	760	810	10,719

Milk Production on Farms, Wisconsin, 1961-72 1/

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
Million pounds													
1961.....	1,443	1,374	1,634	1,634	1,774	1,838	1,559	1,354	1,236	1,322	1,312	1,451	17,931
1962.....	1,548	1,462	1,688	1,709	1,881	1,870	1,591	1,398	1,301	1,387	1,320	1,443	18,598
1963.....	1,505	1,430	1,665	1,707	1,888	1,877	1,576	1,414	1,307	1,392	1,349	1,487	18,597
1964.....	1,605	1,594	1,798	1,798	1,969	1,894	1,583	1,422	1,326	1,411	1,389	1,569	19,358
1965.....	1,670	1,569	1,804	1,806	1,923	1,851	1,604	1,411	1,265	1,285	1,269	1,384	18,841
1966.....	1,468	1,382	1,616	1,660	1,783	1,817	1,566	1,425	1,294	1,311	1,288	1,442	18,052
1967.....	1,518	1,428	1,591	1,656	1,779	1,786	1,610	1,453	1,326	1,353	1,303	1,416	18,219
1968.....	1,499	1,459	1,634	1,668	1,814	1,772	1,590	1,453	1,327	1,332	1,291	1,371	18,210
1969.....	1,442	1,375	1,585	1,609	1,790	1,818	1,620	1,480	1,341	1,311	1,273	1,407	18,051
1970.....	1,470	1,388	1,614	1,660	1,813	1,813	1,640	1,513	1,360	1,389	1,333	1,442	18,435
1971.....	1,525	1,444	1,653	1,709	1,864	1,830	1,649	1,541	1,406	1,435	1,345	1,447	18,848
1972.....	1,548	1,539	1,759	1,768	1,896	1,924	1,740	1,594	1,493	1,502	1,392	1,483	19,638

1/Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Milk Production by Months, United States
1970, 1971 and 1972

Month	Milk cows on farms 1/			Milk per cow 2/			Milk production 2/		
	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972
1,000				Pounds			Million pounds		
January.....	12,087	11,908	11,773	778	804	824	9,403	9,573	9,701
February.....	12,070	11,889	11,762	733	756	803	8,852	8,994	9,448
March.....	12,053	11,881	11,749	838	860	893	10,099	10,220	10,487
April.....	12,034	11,867	11,739	855	878	906	10,289	10,423	10,633
May.....	12,019	11,852	11,728	919	942	964	11,042	11,159	11,303
June.....	11,999	11,841	11,715	892	913	938	10,703	10,815	10,983
July.....	11,986	11,832	11,700	852	869	893	10,209	10,285	10,450
August.....	11,969	11,822	11,689	813	834	854	9,733	9,860	9,982
September.....	11,956	11,811	11,681	770	790	808	9,203	9,328	9,443
October.....	11,945	11,799	11,673	777	800	810	9,278	9,444	9,460
November.....	11,932	11,794	11,662	740	763	771	8,832	9,004	8,987
December.....	11,916	11,785	11,652	782	800	807	9,319	9,427	9,401
Annual.....	12,000	11,842	11,710	9,747	10,009	10,271	116,962	118,532	120,278

1/Excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/Excludes milk sucked by calves.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY INVENTORY

The annual inventory of livestock and poultry on Wisconsin farms showed an increase in all cattle but a decline in hogs, sheep and lambs, chickens, and turkey breeder hens.

All cattle and calves totaled 4,283,000 on January 1, 1973, up 1 percent from a year earlier and the third consecutive year that cattle numbers increased. The number of cattle and calves on Wisconsin farms January 1 was the highest since 1965. Milk cows, at 1,831,000 were 1,000 less than on January 1, 1972. Beef cows totaled 313,000, the same as a year ago but 9 percent above two years ago. This is the first time since 1961 that beef cow numbers did not increase from the previous year.

Heifers weighing 500 pounds or more intended for milk replacement were up 3 percent from January 1 last year while beef replacement heifers increased 1 percent. Steers and other heifers weighing 500 pounds or more numbered 423,000 on January 1 this year compared with 417,000 a year ago. Bulls weighing over 500 pounds totaled 47,000, the same as on January 1, 1972. Calves weighing less than 500 pounds amounted to 865,000 as of the first of this year, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

The number of sheep and lambs on Wisconsin farms January 1 continued to decline sharply. There were 124,000 sheep and lambs on farms January 1, 1973, down 12 percent from the previous year. In the last six years, the number of

sheep and lambs in Wisconsin has declined 35 percent. Sheep on feed for the slaughter market on January 1 in Wisconsin totaled 15,000, down 6,000 from a year earlier. Stock sheep at 109,000 were 11,000 under January 1, 1972.

There were 7,049,000 chickens (excluding broilers) on Wisconsin farms December 1, 1972, a decline of 5 percent from the previous year. Hens and pullets of laying age, which accounted for 83 percent of all chickens, were 4 percent below December 1, 1971.

Hogs and pigs on Wisconsin farms December 1, 1972 totaled 1,475,000 down 17 percent from a year earlier. Hogs kept for breeding numbered 251,000, a decline of 9 percent from December 1, 1971 while market hogs were down 19 percent.

The total value of all cattle, hogs, sheep and lambs, chickens, and turkey breeder hens amounted to well over \$1.4 billion, up 19 percent from a year earlier. The value per head for all species except chickens was higher than the previous year.

Farmers valued all cattle at a record \$325 per head, up \$50 from last year. All hogs, valued at \$41.00 a head, were \$12.50 more than a year ago and the highest since 1966. All sheep and lambs averaged \$24.00 a head on January 1, up \$2.00 from the previous year. Chickens, at \$1.20 each, were down 5 cents from a year earlier. Turkey breeder hens were valued at \$6.50 each, up \$1.00 from last year.

Number and Value of Livestock, January 1
Wisconsin

Class of Livestock	Number		Farm value per head		Farm value	
	1972	1973	1972	1973	1972	1973
	1,000 head		Dollars		1,000 dollars	
Cows and heifers that have calved	2,145	2,144	—	—	—	—
Beef cows	313	313	—	—	—	—
Milk cows	1,832	1,831	—	—	—	—
Heifers 500 pounds and over	919	943	—	—	—	—
For beef cow replacement	98	99	—	—	—	—
For milk cow replacement	682	705	—	—	—	—
Other heifers	139	139	—	—	—	—
Steers 500 pounds and over	278	284	—	—	—	—
Bulls 500 pounds and over	47	47	—	—	—	—
Heifers, steers, and bulls under 500 pounds	852	865	—	—	—	—
All cattle and calves	4,241	4,283	275.00	325.00	1,166,275	1,391,975
Hogs and pigs 1/	1,777	1,475	28.50	41.00	50,645	60,475
Stock sheep and lambs	120	109	—	—	—	—
Ewes 1 year and older	95	88	—	—	—	—
Ewe lambs	16	14	—	—	—	—
Rams and wethers 1 year and older	5	4	—	—	—	—
Wether and ram lambs	4	3	—	—	—	—
Sheep and lambs on feed	21	15	—	—	—	—
All sheep and lambs	141	124	22.00	24.00	3,102	2,976
Hens and pullets of laying age	6,142	5,876	—	—	—	—
Other pullets	1,225	1,114	—	—	—	—
Other chickens	66	59	—	—	—	—
All chickens 1/ 2/	7,433	7,049	1.25	1.20	9,291	8,459
Turkey breeder hens 1/	81	76	5.50	6.50	446	494
Total value 4/	—	—	—	—	1,229,759	1,464,379

United States

Beef cows	38,807	41,102	—	—	—	—
Milk cows	11,778	11,651	—	—	—	—
All other cattle	67,277	69,237	—	—	—	—
All cattle and calves	117,862	121,990	208.00	252.00	24,519,645	30,691,129
Hogs and pigs 1/	62,507	61,502	28.50	41.90	1,781,341	2,575,029
Sheep and lambs	18,710	17,726	22.90	26.70	427,741	472,900
Chickens 1/ 2/	425,576	406,528	1.23	1.28	524,002	519,770
Turkey breeder hens 1/ 3/	3,370	3,453	6.23	6.53	21,011	22,535
Total value	—	—	—	—	27,273,740	34,281,363

1/December 1 previous year. 2/Does not include commercial broilers. 3/U. S. totals are for 26 states with 10,000 or more breeder hens. 4/Includes cattle, hogs, all sheep, chickens, and turkey breeder hens.

WHOLESALE BUTTER PRICE DECLINES

Wholesale prices of 92-score butter at the New York market average 68.71 cents a pound during January, a decline of 2¼ cents a pound from the previous month. The wholesale butter price for January was about equal to a year ago.

Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 63¾ cents a pound at Wisconsin primary markets in January, the same as December but 5¼ cents higher than January 1972. Wholesale prices of block Swiss cheese increased from December to January. At 77.20 cents a pound for January, Swiss cheese prices were up nearly 1¼ cents a pound from a month earlier and almost 6¾ cents a pound above last year.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	January 1972	December 1972	January 1973 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . . .	68.75¢	71.47¢	68.71¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/	58.50¢	63.75¢	63.75¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/	70.50¢	76.00¢	77.20¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$7.70-9.10	\$8.10-9.16	\$ — — —
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	31.31¢	37.36¢	39.06¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

PORK STOCKS CONTINUE LOWER

Cold storage stocks of pork in the Nation at the end of January were 34 percent under a year earlier. Pork stocks totaled 200 million pounds on January 31, a decline of 14 million pounds from the previous month and 101 million pounds less than last year on that date. Two years ago there were 351 million pounds of pork in cold storage on January 31. Pork bellies amounted to 31 million pounds at the end of January 1973, down 63 percent from a year ago.

Stocks of beef in the Nation's cold storage facilities totaled over 396 million pounds on January 31, an increase of 17 percent from a year earlier. Beef stocks increased by 29 million pounds during January and were 58 million pounds above January 31, 1972.

Cold Storage Stocks of Meat
United States

Commodity	Jan. 31, 1971	Jan. 31, 1972	Dec. 31, 1972	Jan. 31, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
Beef:					
Frozen	315,880	330,232	355,339	383,917	+ 16
In cure and cured	9,801	8,222	11,778	12,521	+ 52
Total	325,681	338,454	367,117	396,438	+ 17
Pork:					
Frozen	325,966	281,600	199,552	185,914	- 34
In cooler	25,090	19,526	14,652	13,960	- 29
Total	351,056	301,126	214,204	199,874	- 34
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	9,226	8,893	12,606	14,600	+ 64
Lamb and mutton, frozen	20,526	16,355	15,704	13,599	- 17
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	44,924	61,262	44,833	47,703	- 22
Other meats	18,377	19,511	15,838	15,637	- 20
Total, all meats	769,790	745,601	670,302	687,851	- 8

Stocks of frozen veal in the Nation at the end of January were 64 percent higher than the previous year but lamb and mutton stocks were down 17 percent. With the large decrease in pork holdings, total meat stocks in the Nation on January 31 were 8 percent below a year ago.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION WELL BELOW A YEAR AGO

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughter plants during December totaled 98 million pounds, a decline of 13½ percent from the previous year. Output of beef was down 5 percent from December 1971 and pork production fell 24 percent.

Slaughtering plants in Wisconsin killed 101,000 cattle in December, a decline of 3,000 from a year earlier. The average liveweight of cattle slaughtered in December was 1,123 pounds, 21 pounds lighter than December 1971.

Hog slaughter for December totaled 242,000, down 74,000 from a year earlier and the lowest for December since 1965. Hog liveweight in December averaged 238 pounds, 1 pound less than the previous year. During 1972, the number of hogs slaughtered in Wisconsin was 13 percent less than in 1971.

Wisconsin's calf slaughter during December was only 22,600, down 10,900 from a year earlier. Calf liveweight for December averaged 150 pounds compared with 147 pounds in December 1971. The number of calves slaughtered in Wisconsin during 1972 was 19 percent fewer than in 1971. A total of 300 sheep and lambs were butchered in Wisconsin during December, a decline of 100 from the previous year.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	December		Change from last year	December	
	1971	1972		1971	1972
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin	104.0	101.0	— 3	119.0	113.4
United States 1/ ..	2,870.0	2,866.8	n. c.	3,010.5	3,027.0
Calves					
Wisconsin	33.5	22.6	— 33	4.9	3.4
United States 1/ ..	301.2	239.1	— 21	71.0	55.7
Hogs					
Wisconsin	316.0	242.0	— 23	75.5	57.6
United States 1/ ..	8,267.2	6,663.5	— 19	1,998.6	1,605.9
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin4	.3	— 25	.039	.029
United States 1/ ..	884.5	779.2	— 12	93.5	83.5

1/Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

FEEDER PIG PRICES CONTINUE TO INCREASE

Wisconsin farmers reported paying an average of \$24.80 in January for a feeder pig averaging 41 pounds. This price was \$1.30 more than in October 1972 and exceeded January last year by \$6.30 a head. Feeder pig prices in Wisconsin have been on the increase for the past two years since reaching a low of \$9.35 in January 1971. The feeder pig average price for January this year was 30 cents above the previous high achieved in April 1970.

Wisconsin Feeder Pig Prices and Weights 1/

Year	January	April	July	October
Dollars per head				
1965	10.50	12.10	13.00	15.15
1966	20.65	20.00	16.60	16.30
1967	14.50	14.75	15.20	14.90
1968	13.70	15.40	15.10	15.20
1969	14.00	16.40	17.80	19.00
1970	21.50	24.50	18.80	12.60
1971	9.35	12.05	12.80	14.30
1972	18.50	21.70	23.30	23.50
1973	24.80			
Pounds per head				
1965	42	40	40	40
1966	41	40	40	41
1967	42	41	41	41
1968	42	40	41	41
1969	41	41	41	41
1970	41	39	40	40
1971	41	40	40	41
1972	41	40	40	40
1973	41			

1/Prices paid by farmers and weights are average for the month as reported by Wisconsin Crop Correspondents.

LIVESTOCK AND CROP PRICES CONTINUE STRONG

Livestock and crop prices in Wisconsin continued strong as of mid-January. The index of prices received for all farm products sold in Wisconsin during the month ending January 15 averaged a record 416 percent of the 1910-14 base. This was 12 points (3 percent) higher than in December and 63 points (18 percent) above January 1972.

Hog prices averaged \$31.00 a hundredweight for mid-January, up \$2.50 from December and \$8.80 greater than last year. January 1973 was the first time that hog prices in Wisconsin averaged over \$30.00 a hundredweight.

Steers and heifers averaged a record \$35.40 a hundredweight on January 15, an increase of \$1.20 from the previous month and \$5.70 above a year ago. Slaughter cows, at \$26.10 a hundredweight in January, were 40 cents higher than December and \$4.70 more than January 1972.

Calves averaged \$48.10 a hundredweight for January, up 90 cents from a month earlier and \$5.90 above last year.

Sheep averaged \$7.00 a hundredweight at mid-January, the highest since April 1970. Sheep were \$1.00 more than in December and \$1.50 over January a year ago. Lambs, at \$28.60 a hundredweight in January, were up \$1.90 from December and exceeded January 1972 by \$2.70. The mid-January wool price of 45 cents a pound remained unchanged from a month earlier but was 21 cents above last year.

Egg prices showed considerable strength in the past three months. The mid-January average of 49 cents a dozen was up 20 cents from October. Egg prices increased 10 cents from December and were 25 cents above January 1972. This was the highest egg price in three years.

Turkeys averaged 24 cents a pound liveweight as of January 15, the same as a month earlier but 1 cent higher than last year.

Hay prices continued to soar during January. Baled alfalfa hay reached a record high of \$37.00 a ton by mid-January, up \$4.00 from December and \$13.50 more than a year ago. Oats also kept increasing in price. The average of 89 cents a bushel on January 15 was 3 cents above the previous month and 18 cents greater than a year earlier.

Corn prices remained at \$1.30 a bushel at mid-January, unchanged from December but up 20 cents from January 1972. Soybeans averaged \$3.85 a bushel in January, the most since reaching \$4.00 a bushel in June 1948. The mid-January soybean price increased 15 cents from the previous month and was almost \$1.00 higher than last year.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	January 1971	January 1972	December 1972	January 1973
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	385.00	415.00	460.00	485.00
Steers and heifers ..	Cwt.	25.50	29.70	34.20	35.40
Cows	Cwt.	18.80	21.40	25.70	26.10
Calves	Cwt.	34.00	42.20	47.20	48.10
Hogs	Cwt.	15.70	22.20	28.50	31.00
Sheep	Cwt.	5.50	5.50	6.00	7.00
Lambs	Cwt.	23.10	25.90	26.70	28.60
Wool	Lb.	.25	.24	.45	.45
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.085	.085	.095	.100
Turkeys	Lb.	.220	.230	.240	.240
Eggs	Doz.	.330	.240	.390	.490
Corn	Bu.	1.41	1.10	1.30	1.30
Oats	Bu.	.76	.71	.86	.89
Soybeans	Bu.	2.72	2.88	3.70	3.85
Alfalfa hay, baled ..	Ton	20.50	23.50	33.00	37.00

1/Excludes broilers.

FARM LABOR WAGE RATES HIGHER IN 1972

Wage rates paid to hired workers on farms in Wisconsin and the Nation during 1972 averaged higher than in 1971. Wisconsin workers received an average of \$387.00 a month with a house in 1972, up \$25.00 from the previous year. Monthly rates with board and room averaged \$295.00 in 1972, an increase of \$23.00 from 1971. Hired help in Wisconsin who worked by the day received an average of \$12.30 with board and room in 1972, a gain of 70 cents from a year earlier. Daily rates without board and room averaged \$15.70, up \$1.10 from 1971. Those workers employed by the hour in Wisconsin during 1972 were paid an average of \$1.92, an increase of 7 cents from the hourly rate in 1971. Farm labor wage rates in the Nation for 1972 averaged from \$17.00 to \$21.00 higher by the month than in 1971. Daily rates were 80 cents to a dollar more in 1972 than in the previous year.

Farm Workers and Wages
Wisconsin and United States

Item	Wisconsin		United States	
	1972	1973	1972	1973
January				
Farm Workers 1/				
Hired	10,000	11,000	670,200	688,100
Family	147,000	148,000	2,618,000	2,639,700
Total	157,000	159,000	3,288,200	3,327,800
1971				
Wage Rates 2/				
By the month				
With house	\$362.00	\$387.00	\$340.00	\$361.00
With board and room ...	\$273.00	\$295.00	\$263.00	\$280.00
By the day				
With board and room ...	\$11.60	\$12.30	\$11.20	\$12.00
Without board and room .	\$14.60	\$15.70	\$12.20	\$13.20
By the hour				
No board or room	\$1.85	\$1.92	\$1.73	\$1.84

1/Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month. 2/Average rates paid on crop and livestock reporters' farms or in their localities for arrangements specified above.

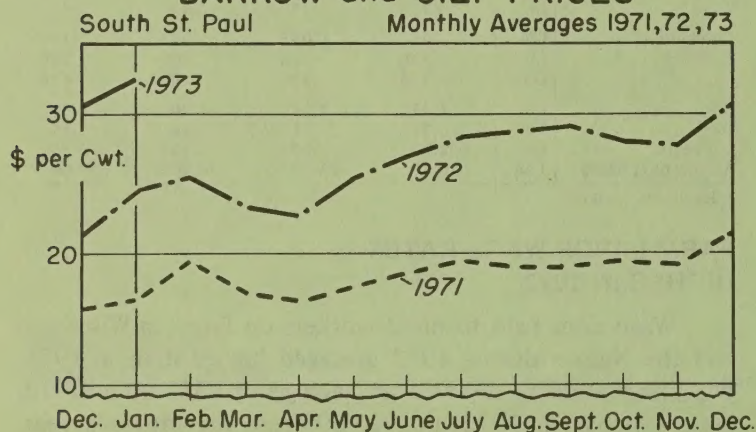
The Nation's hired farm help who worked by the hour in 1972 received an average of \$1.84, up 11 cents from 1971.

Farm employment in Wisconsin and the Nation during January of this year was up from a year earlier as both the number of family workers and hired help increased. For 1972, the total farm labor force in Wisconsin and the Nation averaged 1 percent less than in 1971.

HOG MARKET REACHES ANOTHER HIGH

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market achieved another high during January. The January average of \$32.49 was \$1.83 more than a month earlier and nearly \$9.00 above last year. In the past two months, barrows and gilts at St. Paul have risen \$4.78 a hundredweight.

BARROW and GILT PRICES



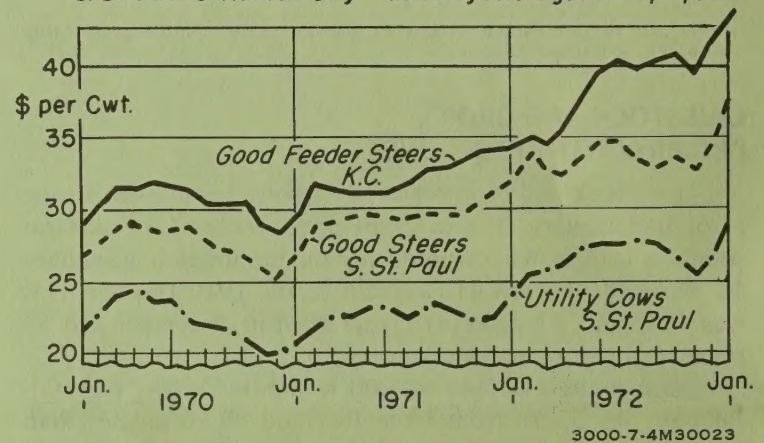
BEEF MARKET VERY STRONG

Price of fed steers, slaughter cows, and feeder steers continued to show strength during January. Good grade fed steers at the St. Paul market weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$37.45 a hundredweight for January, an increase of almost \$3.00 from December and more than \$5.00 above January 1972. Utility cows at St. Paul averaged \$28.87 a hundredweight in January, up \$2.11 from the previous month and \$5.00 higher than a year ago.

Feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds and of good grade averaged \$43.81 a hundredweight at the Kansas City market during January, a gain of \$1.89 from December and \$9.53 greater than January last year.

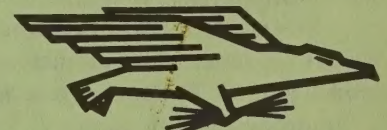
BEEF CATTLE PRICES

S. St. Paul & Kansas City Monthly Averages 1970, 71, 72



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